

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 HONG K 10046 100919Z

11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 L-03 H-03

DRC-01 (ISO) W

----- 087707

P 100800Z SEP 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2149

UNCLAS HONG KONG 10046

USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

FOR IOP/M IEA; STATE FOR EA

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION TO NIXON PARDON

1. THE NIXON PARDON AND SUBSEQUENT U.S. REACTION WERE PROMINENTLY REPORTED BY HONG KONG'S NON-COMMUNIST PRESS SEPTEMBER 9 AND 10. LEFTIST PAPERS PLAYED DOWN THE DEVELOPMENT, AS THEY DID THE WATERGATE AFFAIR IN THE PAST. SO FAR THREE DAILIES HAVE COMMENTED.

2. THE INDEPENDENT CHINESE-LANGUAGE MING PAO SAID: "FOR A CHINESE IT IS EASY TO UNDERSTAND FORD'S PARDONING OF NIXON -- IT IS 'THE GRATEFUL RETURNING OF AFAVOR'...

3. "AMERICANS, WHO ARE NOT SO SENTIMENTAL,... GENERALLY FEEL IT IS OUT OF POLITICAL CONSIDERATION...TO SPARE THE REPUBLICAN PARTY OF FURTHER IMPLICATION... IT IS NATURALLY POSSIBLE THE DECISION WAS REACHED FOLLOWING CONSULTATION WITH REPUBLICAN LEADERS.

4. "WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY TERHORST...THINKS FORD IS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 HONG K 10046 100919Z

UNFAIR TO PARDON NIXON BUT NOT THE MINOR WATERGATE PERSONALITIES

WHO ARE SERVING PRISON TERMS...

5. "WE FIND THAT, VIEWED TOGETHER WITH THE SITUATION IN HONG KONG, TERHORST'S REMARK IS VERY MEANINGFUL. IN HONG KONG, VIOLATORS OF MINOR OFFENSES ARE PUNISHED WHILE DEATH PENALTIES FOR MANSLAUGHTER ARE PARDONED; CLEMENCY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ARE OBVIOUSLY NOT HANDLED FAIRLY."

6. THE INDEPENDENT CHINESE-LANGUAGE SING PAO DAILY NEWS SAID:
"...WE FEEL THAT THE PARDON WAS GRANTED NIXON NOT ONLY FOR NIXON'S PERSONAL SAKE BUT ALSO TO SPARE AMERICA OF RENEWED FRUSTRATION OVER WATERGATE..."

7. "FORD'S ENTRANCE INTO THE WHITE HOUSE HAS QUICKLY HEALED THE WOUND INFLICTED ON THE REPUBLICAN PARTY BY THE WATERGATE AFFAIR. HENCE THE DEMOCRATS MAY ONCE MORE EXPLOIT THE NIXON PARDON TO STIR UP TROUBLE."

8. THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST SAID: "PRESIDENT FORD'S UNPRECEDENTED ACT...WAS NOT TOTALLY UNEXPECTED."

9. "INDEED, IT WAS UNMISTAKABLY INDICATED WHEN HE SUGGESTED CONDITIONAL AMNESTY FOR DRAFT DODGERS AND ESERTERS..."

10. "IN FACT, HE STRUCK A SIMILAR CHORD WHEN HE SAID THAT A COURT TRIAL OF MR. NIXON WOULD ONCE AGAIN UNLEASH UNHEALTHY PARSSIONS AND ONCE AGAIN SPLIT THE NATION..."

1. "LIKE MANY OTHERS, IN AND OUTSIDE CONGRESS, MR. FORD IS CONVINCED THAT MR. NIXON HAS SUFFERED ENOUGH, THAT AN ADJUDICATION OF HIS WRONG-DOING WOULD BE DIVISIVE AND THAT A FAIR TRIAL WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE."

12. "TO ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, MR. NIXON HAS ALREADY BEEN TRIED IN PUBLIC -- THE MEDIA HAS FOUND HIM GUILTY AND THE FORMER CHIEF EXECUTIVE HIMSELF HAS ADMITTED, ALBEIT VAGUELY, INFRINGEMENTS OF THE LAW AND RESIGNED TO AVOID FORMAL IMPEACHMENT."

13. "THE ONLY THING THAT REMAINS IS THE PENALTY AND HERE, PRESIDENT FORD IMPLIES THAT IS HAS ALREADY BEEN IMPOSED..."
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 HONG K 10046 100919Z

14. "THE RELEVANCY OF PRESIDENT FORD'S GROUNDS FOR GRANTING MR. NIXON UNCONDITIONAL CLEMENCY IS, OF COURSE, OPEN TO QUESTION...."

15. "PRESIDENT FORD WANTS AN END TO THE WATERGATE NIGHTMARE..."

16. "THE BAD DREAMS, HOWEVER, ARE MOST LIKELY TO PERSIST FOR

THE CHAPTER IS BY NO MEANS CLOSED BY THE UNCONDITIONAL PARDON OF ONLY ONE OF THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT PARTICIPANTS IN THE UNLAWFUL WATERGATE AFFAIR.

17. "THE NIGHTMARE WILL CONTINUE TO AFFLICT THE AMERICAN NATION FOR THE ACT BY PRESIDENT FORD HAS ALREADY SPARKED A FRESH CONTROVERSY, THREATENING TO GENERATE FURTHER PUBLIC DISCORD.

18. "IT CAN ONLY COME TO AN END BY MINISTERING THE SAME COMPASSION AND MERCY THAT IS ACCORDED TO MR. NIXON TO THOSE IMPRISONED OR AWAITING TRIAL FOR THEIR PART IN THE INFAMOUS AFFAIRS." END QUOTE MORNING POST.
IZENBERG

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, PENAL SYSTEM, REMOVAL FROM OFFICE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974HONGK10046
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740251-0685
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740960/aaaabyzs.tel
Line Count: 128
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: smithrj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2002 by maustmc>; APPROVED <30 JAN 2003 by smithrj>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REACTION TO NIXON PARDON
TAGS: PINS, SOPN, HK, (NIXON, RICHARD M), (FORD, GERALD R)
To: USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005